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Dkt. 64159-Z CCD

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Takafumi KONDOU et al.

Serial No.: 10/748,092

Group Art Unit 3754

Filed : December 29, 2003

Examiner J. F. Hook

For : PIPE BODY AND FORMING METHOD OF THE SAME

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR ELECTION OF SPECIES

1185 Ave. of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
April 20, 2005

Commissioner for Patents,
P. O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

In response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2005, requiring an election of species, applicants hereby elect the species of FIG. 4A for prosecution on the merits. This election is made without traverse, but without prejudice to the presentation of claims to nonelected species in this application (if one or more generic claims are allowed) and/or in one or more divisional applications.

Claims 21 - 41 are in the application. Claims readable on the elected species are claims 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40 and 41.

Notwithstanding the Examiner's assertion that "Currently, no claim is generic," applicants respectfully submit that at least some of the claims are either generic to all species or subgeneric to plural species. Thus, applicants believe that claim 1 is generic to all species. For instance, recitals of

"a male portion" and "a female portion" do not exclude the presence of plural male portions and plural female portions (note claim 28, dependent on and therefore within the scope of claim 21). The species identified in the Office Action appear to be differentiated in at least many instances on the basis of specific features of configuration of the male and female portions, and the broad recitals of "a male portion" and "a female portion" in claim 21 embrace all of the specifically different features of such configuration respectively characterizing those species.

Respectfully,

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Date APRIL 21, 2005